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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant:

AUGUST H. BECK, III

Filed: June 18, 1999

Serial No.: 09/336,204

Title: PILOTED DRILL BARREL AND
METHOD OF USING SAME

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Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Nathan Mammen

Docket No.: 063007.0010

RESPONSE A TO OFFICE ACTION

RECEIVED

Art Unit 3671
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231


JUL 31 2001
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Dear Sir:


Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 3, 2000, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

1. A piloted drill barrel for excavating a shaft in hard rock or other relatively hard earthen material, comprising:

 a barrel portion comprising a downhole hammer drill disposed substantially within said barrel portion near the barrel portion's periphery for excavating a collar around a pilot shaft; and

a pilot portion formed integrally and axially aligned with said barrel portion and extending distally therefrom to pilot said barrel portion along said pilot shaft during excavation of a larger diameter shaft.

 26. A method of excavating a relatively large diameter shaft in hard rock or other relatively hard earthen material, comprising the steps of: